

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicants are amending claims 13, 15 and 20 and canceling claims 1-12 without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and confirming receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for considering and initialing the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 7, 2005.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge acceptance of the drawings filed on January 7, 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 21-39 are allowed.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 13-20 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant hereby rewrites claims 13, 15 and 20 in independent form. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 13, 15 and 20 are immediately allowable. Claims 14 and 16-19 are immediately allowable by virtue of their dependency from claims 13 and 15 respectively.

§102 Rejection

1. *Claims 1, 2, and 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP H01-221824 (hereafter, '824).* For a speedier prosecution of the case, the Applicants

cancel these claims and reserve the right to file a corresponding continuation application at a later date.

§103 Rejection

2. *Claims 3 and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP H01-221824 in view of Kaikuranta et al. (U.S. 6,806,815, hereafter "Kaikuranta").* For a speedier prosecution of the case, the Applicants cancel these claims and reserve the right to file a corresponding continuation application at a later date.

Conclusions

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/520,424

Attorney Docket No. Q85483

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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